

The Transvaal Question.

London dispatches of the 18th say: All the vessels of the flying squadron are now assembled at Spithead, whence, it is rumored, they will start Tuesday morning. I learn from official sources that the statement of its destination being Venezuela is unfounded, and as proof thereof the fact is instanced that two vessels of the flying squadron, the Royal Sovereign and the Royal Oak, draw over twenty-eight feet of water each, and thus could not approach Georgetown harbor. Gibraltar will be the first station of the squadron.

The Admiralty Department informs the Associated Press that the destination of the flying squadron of British war ships now off Spithead has not yet been determined upon even by the Admiralty, and certainly the war ships are not going to the Bermudas or anywhere in American waters at present.

A Berlin correspondent telegraphs under date of Jan. 18: The week has ended with every one's thoughts directed to the imperial anniversary. The excitement caused by the Transvaal incident is gradually abating, and the newspapers uniformly express the opinion that this difficulty will be adjusted by diplomacy, although there may be critical stages of the negotiations. The anti-English spirit, however, which was aroused by the invasion of the Boer republic, survives with full vigor, and it is significant that those in political circles who are in touch with the Government have the idea that an open anti-English policy will henceforth be followed by Germany, especially in colonial affairs.

The New York Sun's London cable says: A friend of Lord Salisbury is my authority for a characteristic incident happening at a critical moment in the recent embroglio. The Prime Minister was dining with half a dozen personal friends, when a dispatch was handed to him containing a notification from Portugal that Germany had asked permission to send troops from Delagoa Bay to the Transvaal. Lord Salisbury read it, leaned back in his chair and laughed, and then wrote on the margin of the dispatch: "England will back Portugal for all she is worth." This he sent back to the Colonial Secretary, to be put into diplomatic language and forwarded to Lisbon.

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